Development of inputs for the benefits of SC|ST in hamlets

*232. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to launch a new programme of education and other development inputs for the benefit of the SC/ST in hamlets having 200 or more of their population;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the names of the States in which such hamlets have been identified;

(c) the nature of the Central assistance proposed to be provided by Government and the share of the State Governments concerned in implementing the new education programme for the SC/ST; and

(d) the estimated number of SC/ST population in these hamlets likely to be benefited as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (d) Under the Action Plan in Key Areas for the Development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Government propose a package of services in 10,000 habitations having 200 or more Scheduled Caste|Scheduled Tribe population (or combination of both) in States having a sizeable SC/ST population, namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh; Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

This package of benefits includes(i) setting up a non-formal education centre with a building if there is no primary school in the vicinity; (ii) provision of a handpump/ drinking water source; (iii) street lighting and single point light connections to the poorest households under the Kutir Jyoti Programme; (iv) irrigation wells to small and marginal SC/ST farmers who do not have irrigation facilities; and (v) verification and restoration of possession of land holdings wherever required, etc.

The process of identification of 10,000 habitations in these 10 States is under way. The State Governments have been requested to take expeditious action to ensure that all the components in the package included in the Action Plan are provided early.

Cent percent assistance will be provided to the State Governments under the programme.

The number of SCs/STs likely to be benefited by this programme is estimated to be at least 20 lakhs.

Discussion with Soviet President on Pakistani proposal regarding Afghan problem

*233. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister discussed a Pakistani proposal for the solution of the Afghan problem with the Soviet President at the instance of UN Secretary General and whether it was found "incomplete"; if so, what were the details of the proposal and how was it incomplete; and

(b) whether the Prime Minister discussed this proposal further with the Pakistani Prime Minister during his recent visit to Islamabad; if so, what was the reaction of Pak Prime Minister in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) No, Sir; there was no specific proposal requiring such a discussion.

(b) Question does not arise.